

We claim:

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1. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image, comprising:
an image capture device having a range of exposure times for converting light to
an electrical signal;

5 a programmable amplifier coupled to said image capture device and responsive
to a manual indication from a user that the image is sufficiently obfuscated to lack
discernible features for adjusting the strength of said electrical signal.

10 2. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image according to claim 1,
wherein said programmable amplifier is further responsive to said manual indication
from the user that the image is smeared for further adjusting the strength of said
electrical signal to cause the display of an unsmeared image.

15 3. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image, according to claim 1,
further comprising:
multiplying means responsive to said programmable amplifier for further
increasing the strength of said electrical signal to cause the display of an image of
sufficient detail to facilitate live view observation.

20 4. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image, according to claim 3,
wherein said multiplying means includes:
an analog to digital converter for converting said electrical signal into a digital
signal; and
digital multiplier means for increasing the strength of said digital signal.

25 5. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image according to claim 4,
wherein said digital multiplier means is a digital multiplier.

30 6. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image according to claim 4,
wherein said digital multiplier means is a microprocessor.

7. A method for displaying a buffered image, comprising:
converting light to an electrical signal;
responding to a manual indication from a user that the image is sufficiently
obfuscated to lack discernible features;
adjusting the strength of said electrical signal to cause the display of an image
sufficient to be non obfuscated.

8. A method for displaying a buffered image according to claim 7, wherein said
step of adjusting the strength of said image signal includes;
increasing the strength in incremental step values, where each incremental step
is made in response to said manual indication from the user.

9. A method for displaying a buffered image according to claim 8, wherein said
step of increasing the strength in incremental step values stops, when the strength of
said image signal reaches a maximum strength level.

10. A method for displaying a buffered image according to claim 9, wherein said
maximum strength level is a G_{max} level.

11. A method for displaying a buffered image according to claim 7, wherein said
step of adjusting the strength of said image signal includes;
decreasing the strength in incremental step values where each incremental step is
made in response to said manual indication from the user.

12. A method for display a buffered image according to claim 7, wherein the
buffered image is repeatedly refreshed at a given frame rate independently of LCD
brightness and contrast controls.

13. An electronic device for displaying a buffered image, comprising:
an image capture device having a range of exposure times for converting light to
an electrical signal;

a programmable amplifier coupled to said image capture device and responsive to a manual indication from a user that the image is sufficiently obfuscated to lack discernible features for adjusting the strength of said electrical signal; and

wherein a set of control icons are automatically displayed whenever the exposure time of said image capture device is at about 13.33 milliseconds or greater to help facilitate user adjustments to improve image quality.

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[illegible]